

Attorney Ref. 18155.0006

## IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly add new claims 41-44 below.

41. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the mining machine further includes an extender operatively coupled to the advancing machine, and wherein said bracing the advancing machine includes bracing the advancing machine independently of the extender.
42. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the mining machine further includes an extender operatively coupled to the advancing machine, and wherein said bracing the advancing machine includes bracing the advancing machine independently of the extender.
43. (New) A method according to claim 7, wherein the mining machine further includes an extender operatively coupled to the advancing machine, and wherein said bracing the advancing machine includes bracing the advancing machine independently of the extender.
44. (New) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the brace is fixedly mounted on the advancing machine.